

MARVEL

502

WAID
JONES

5TH
WHEEL
PART 2 OF 2

FANTASTIC FOUR



Rock!
KESEL
ISANOUE

THE FANTASTIC FOUR

1 A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary—and extraordinary. As of today:

2 The team reels from injuries inflicted by their most formidable enemy, Victor Von Doom, who tortured them, leveled their home, and temporarily trapped young Franklin Richards in Hell.

3 Now, Johnny has dragged Reed back in time to hunt down Doom before he can become a threat...

4 ...while Sue and Ben have taken Franklin—nearly catatonic from trauma—to Coney Island, hoping he might show signs of life...and he has.



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writer

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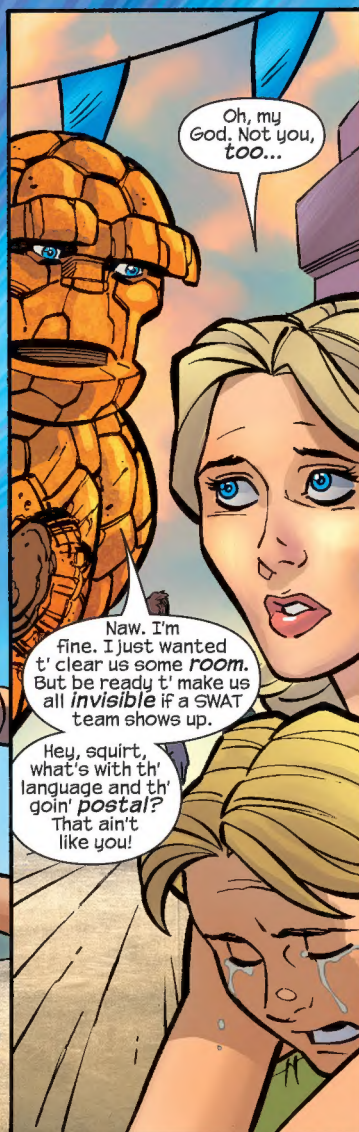
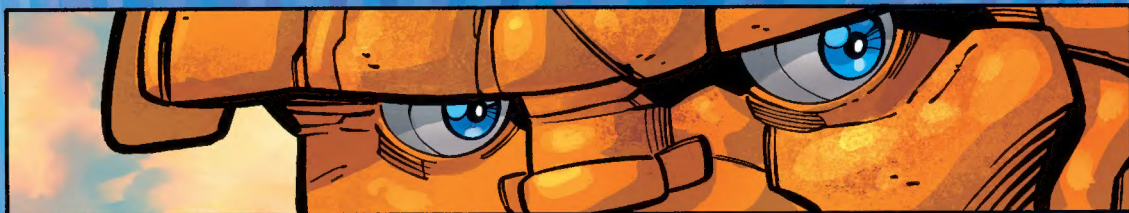
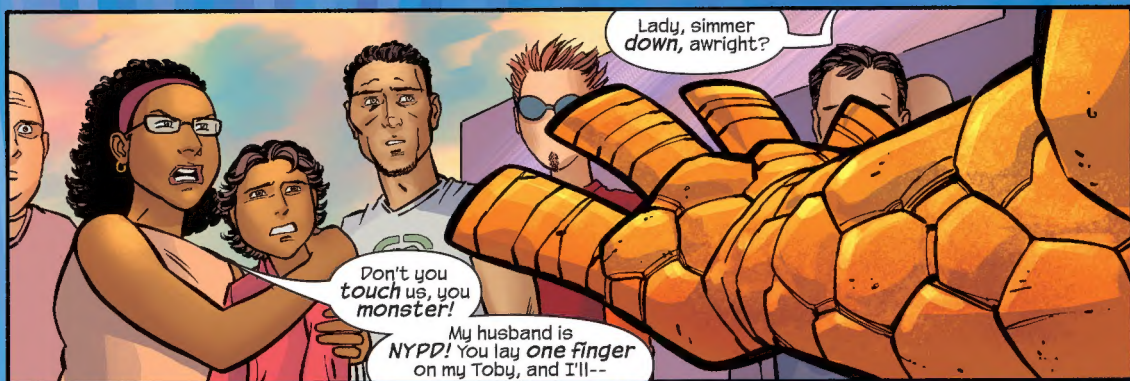
BILL JEMAS
president

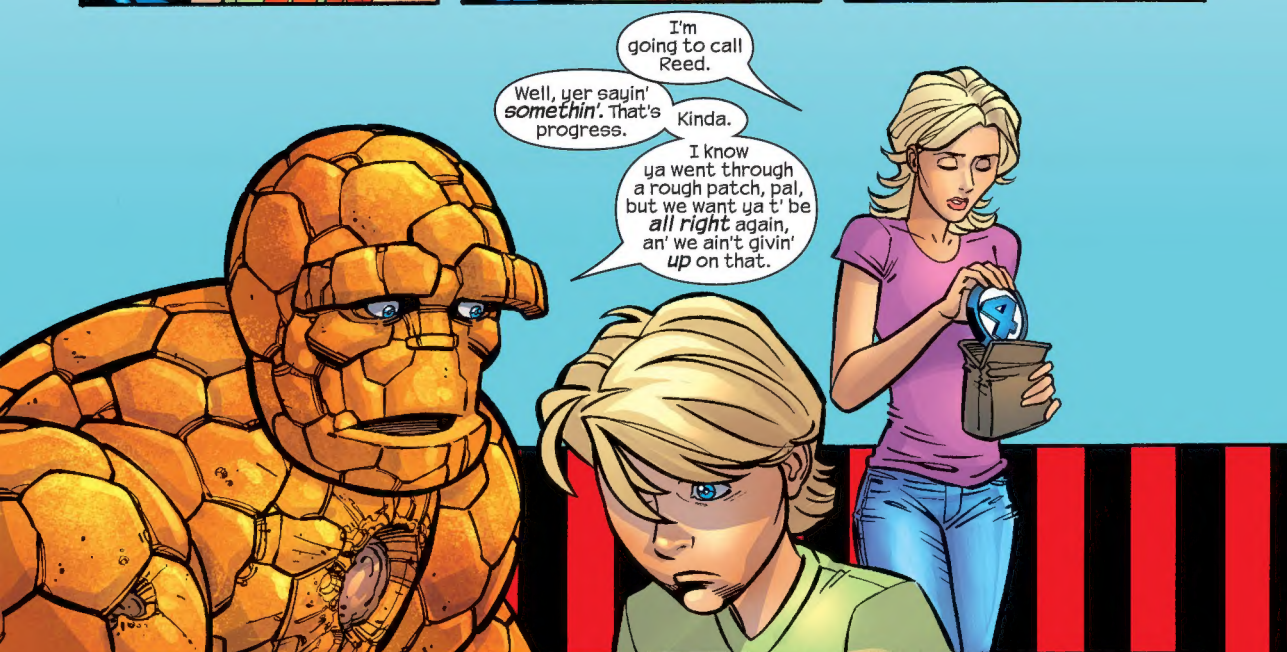
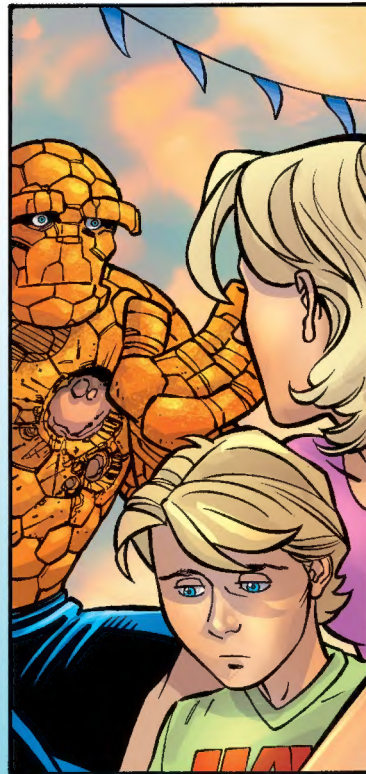
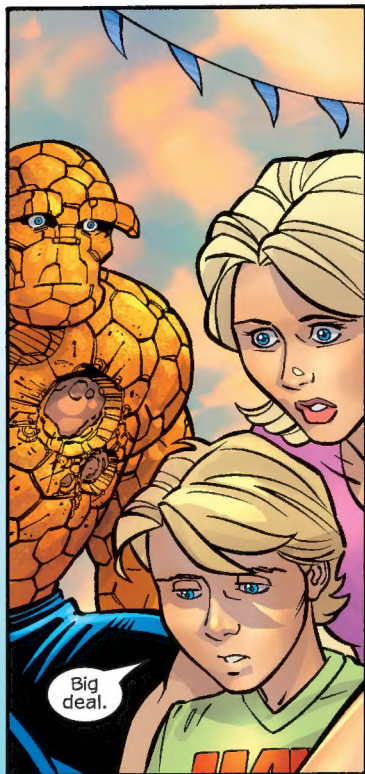
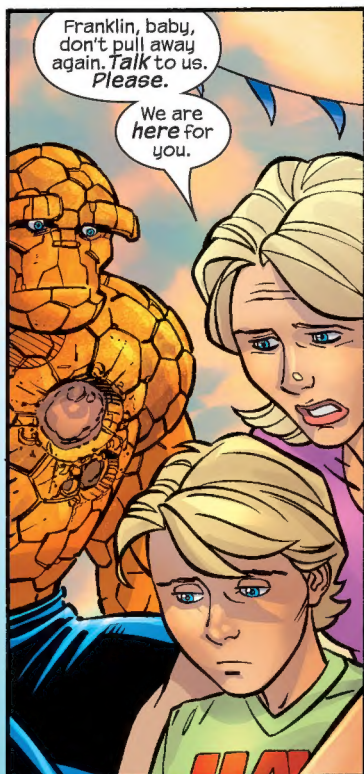
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
the big wheels

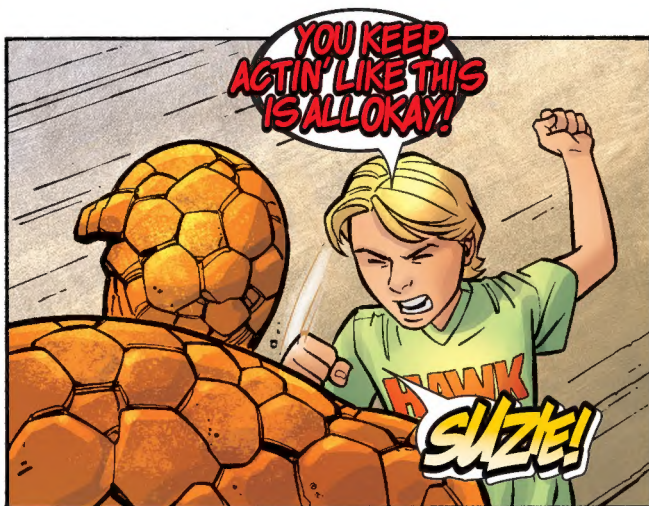
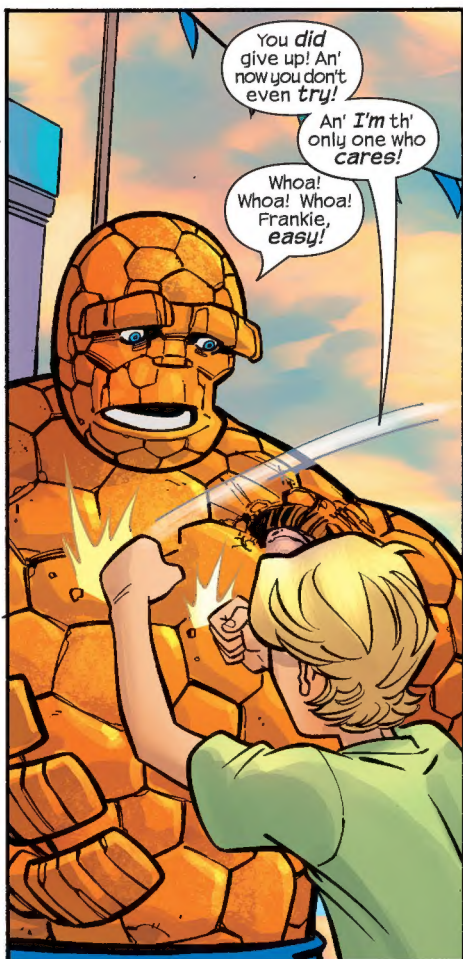
STAN LEE PRESENTS

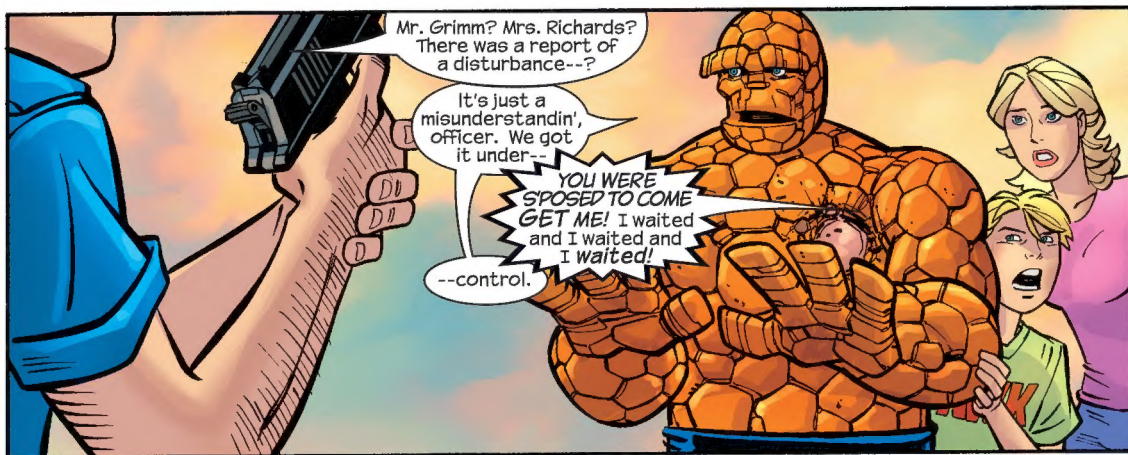
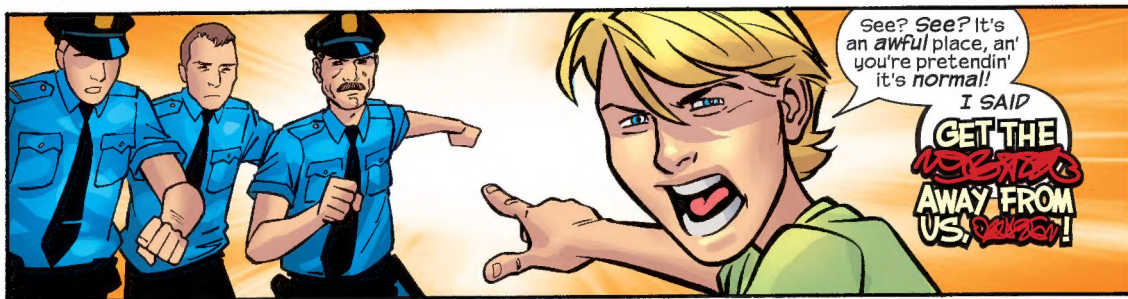
"5th WHEEL" Part 2 of 2







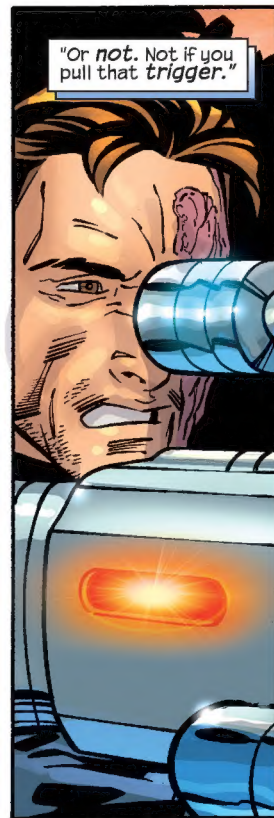
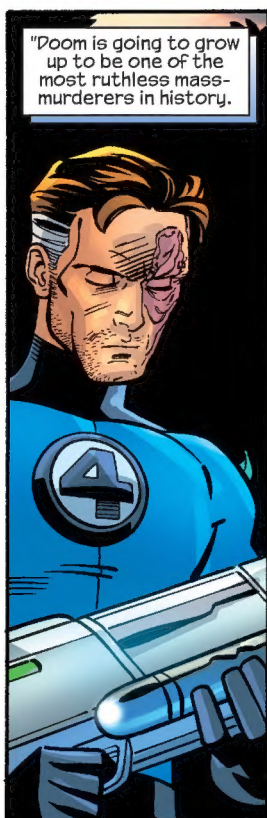
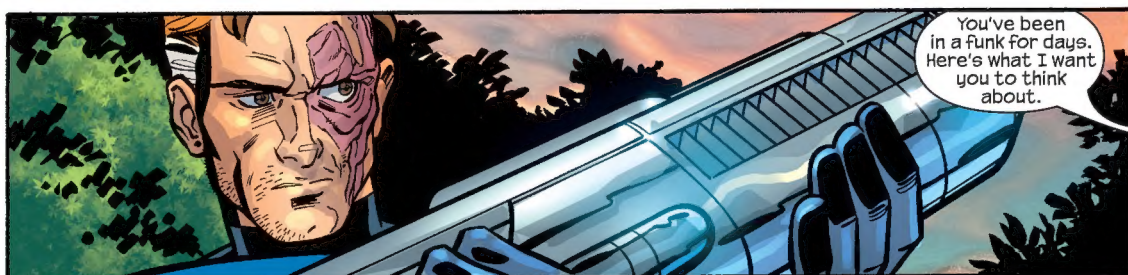
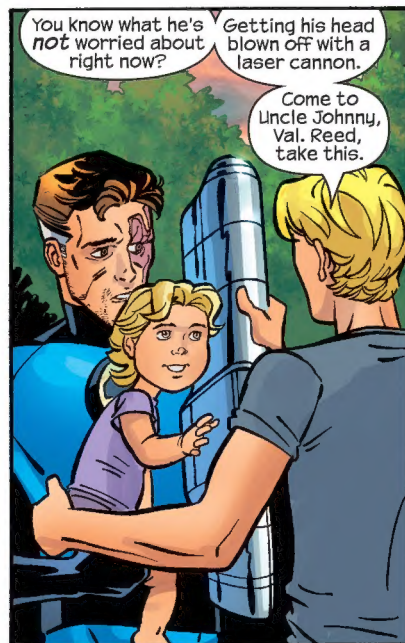
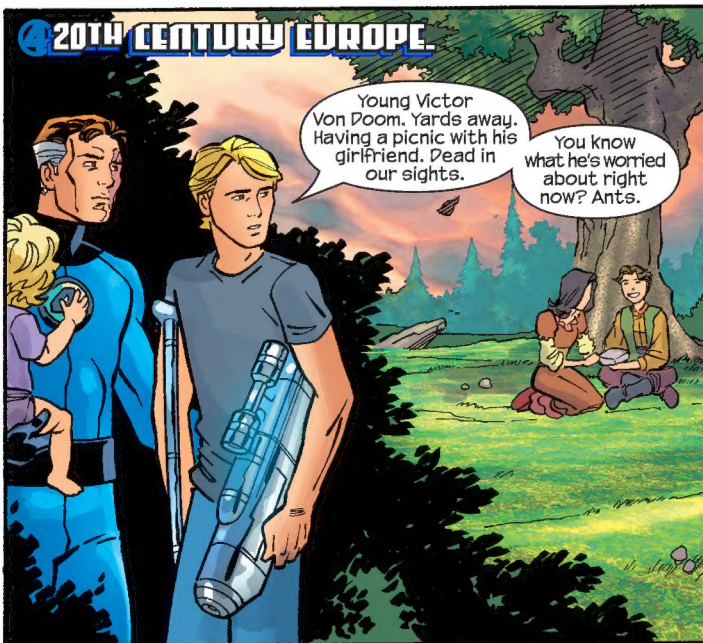


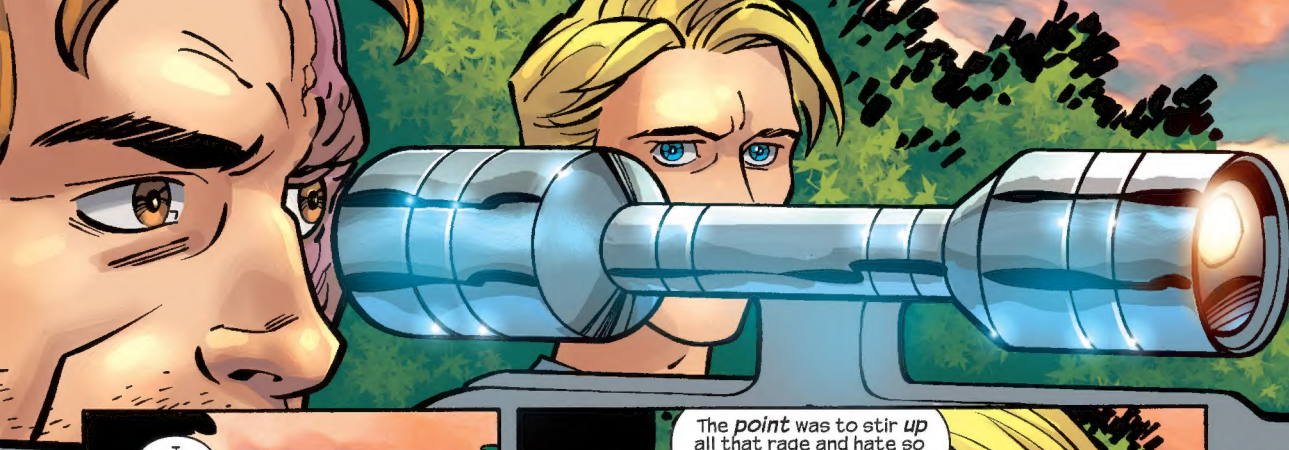




Ben...

...he
thinks
he's still
there...!





I can't.

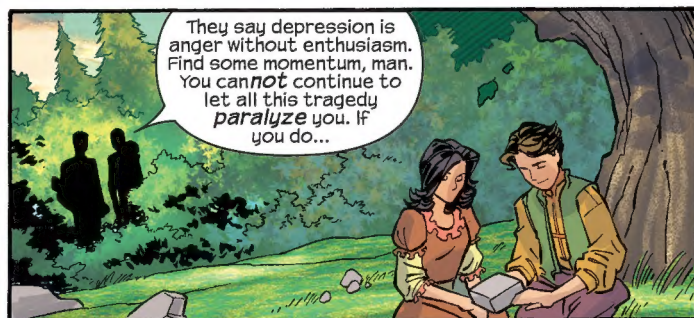
Can't what?
Murder a man in cold blood? I *know* you can't. Surprise. That wasn't the *point*.



The *point* was to stir up all that rage and hate so you could start keeping it where it *belongs*.

On the *outside*.

Because the way you've been packing it down, it'll burn your guts out.



They say depression is anger without enthusiasm. Find some momentum, man. You *cannot* continue to let all this tragedy *paralyze* you. If you do...

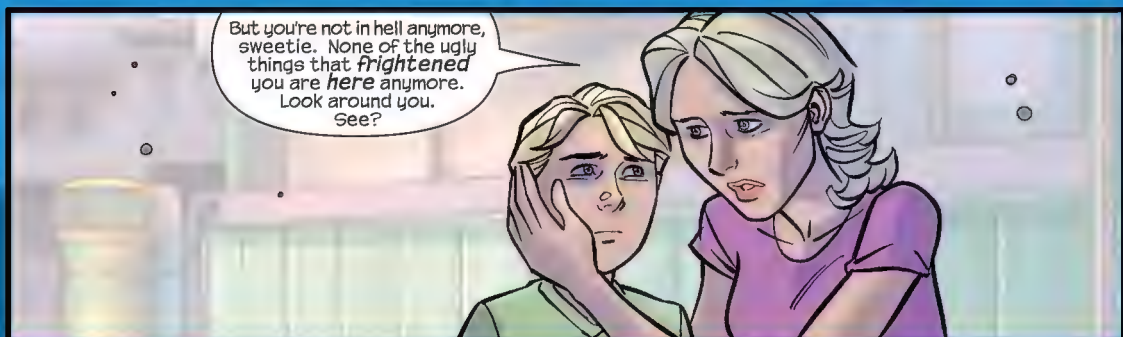
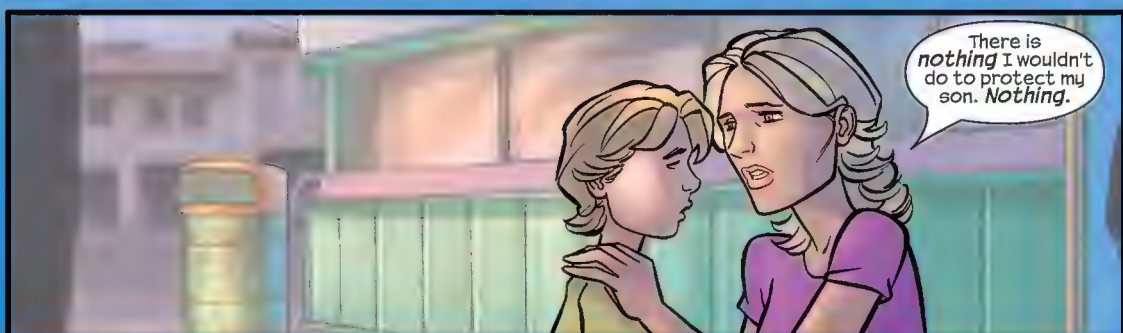
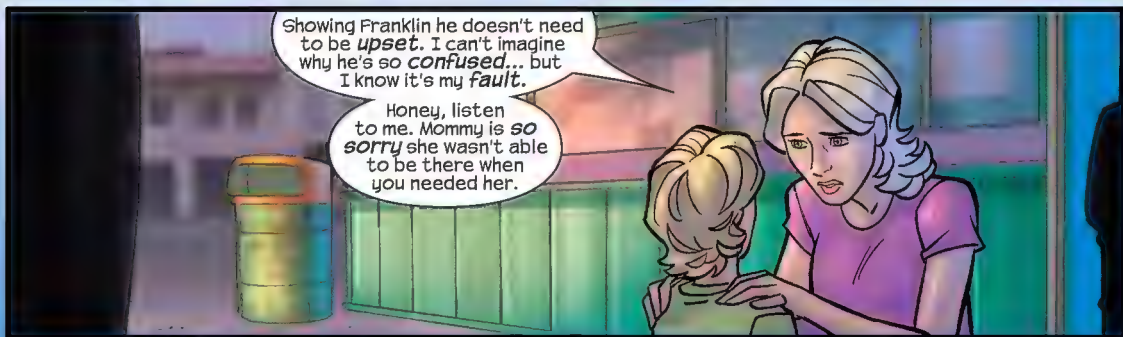
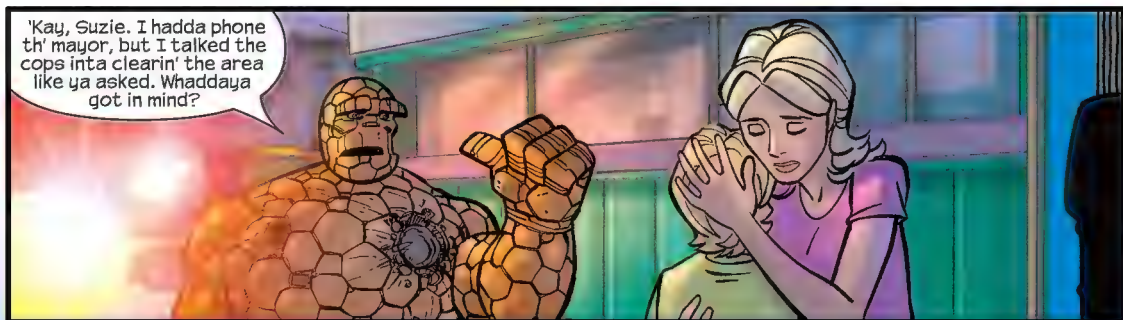


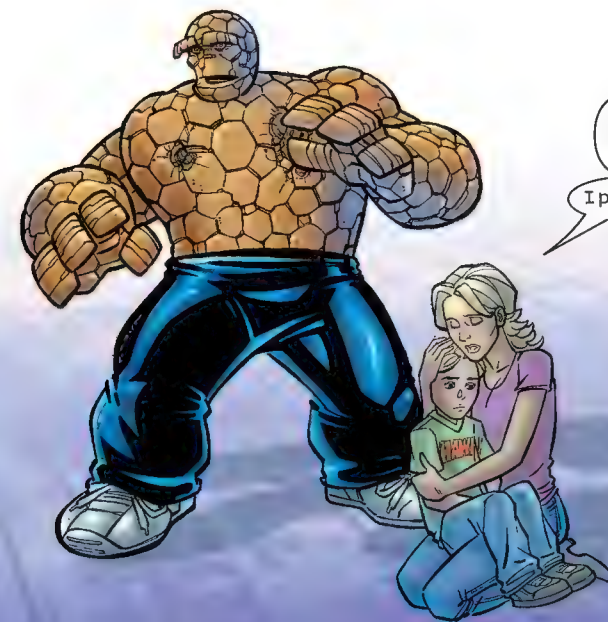
...Doom wins.



You're right.

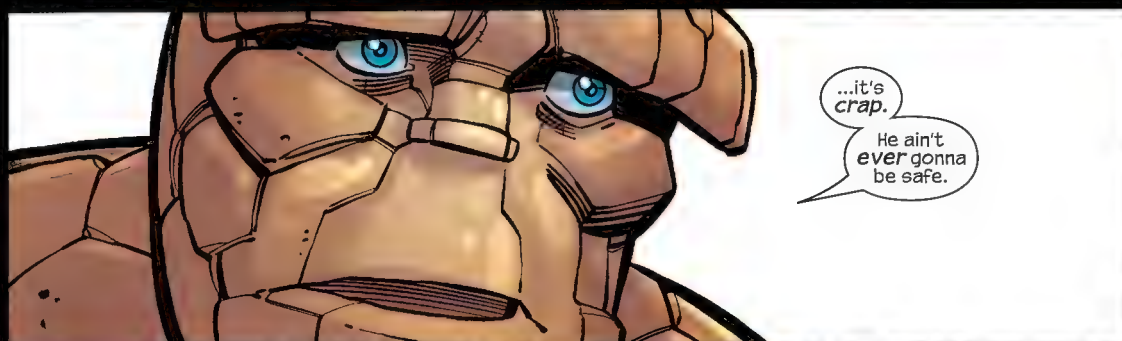
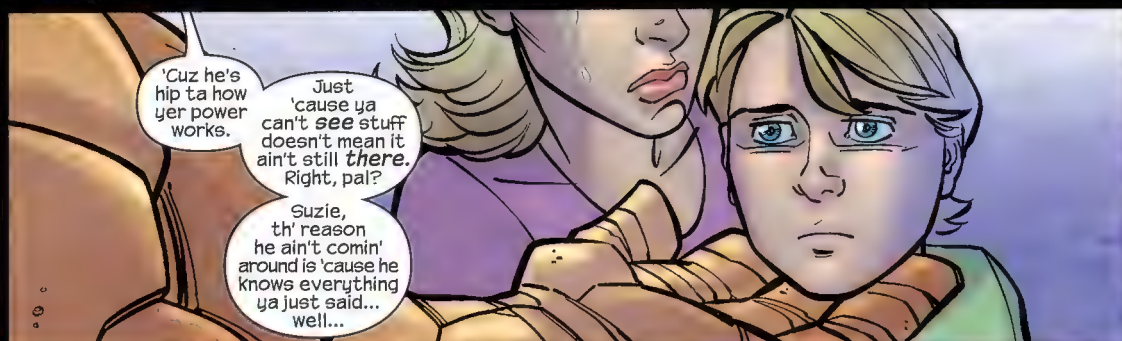
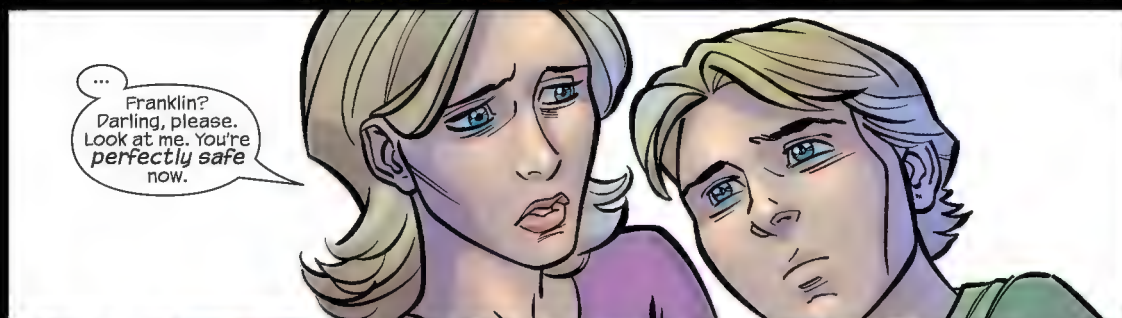
CHOOM

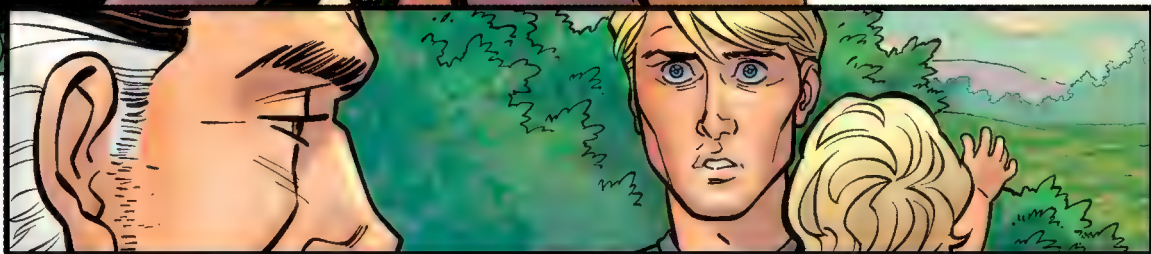
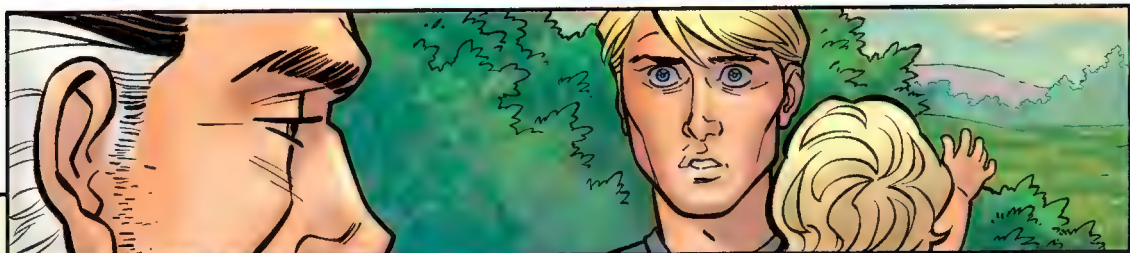
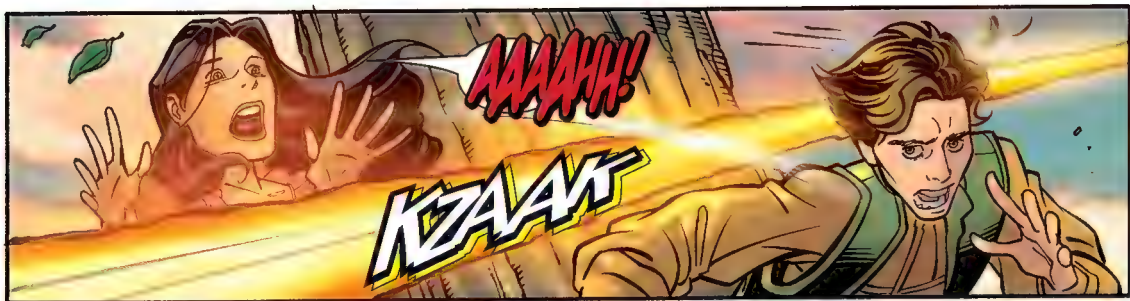


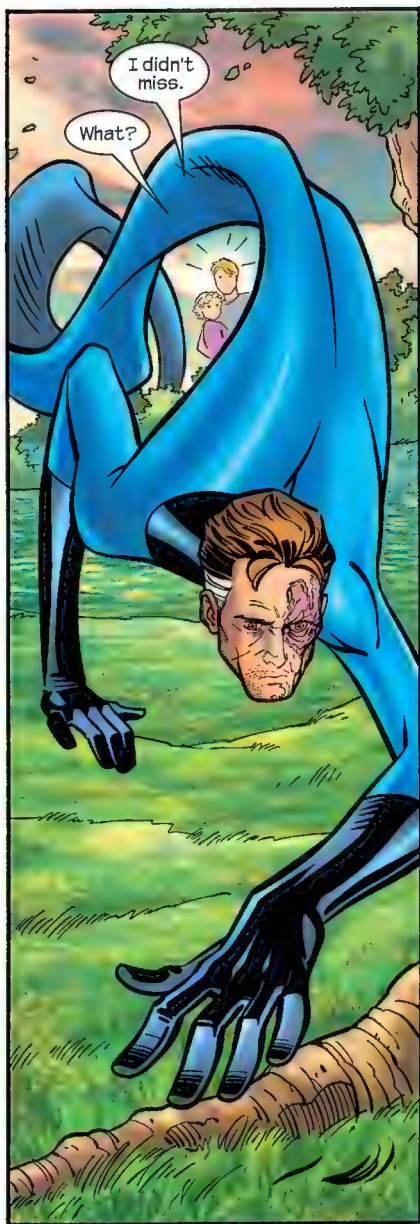
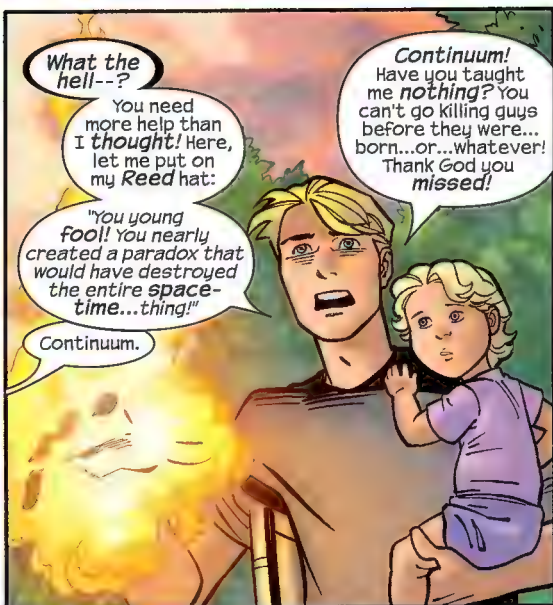


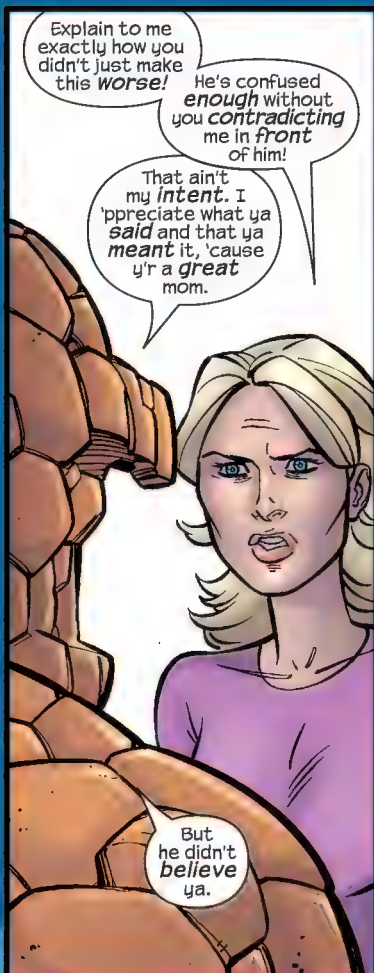
...Mommy
will make
it all go
away.

I promise.







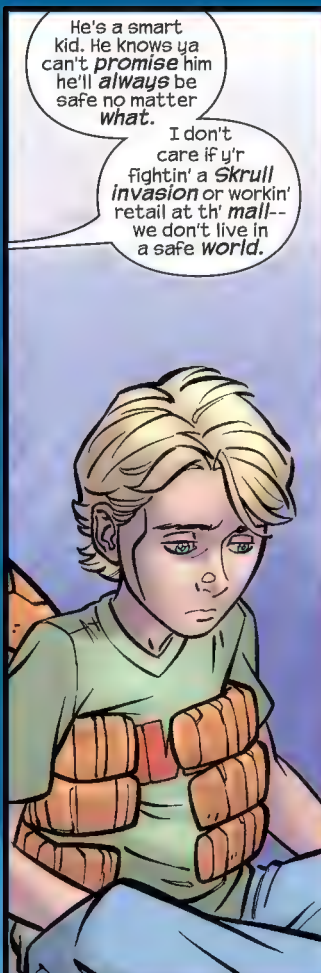


Explain to me exactly how you didn't just make this *worse!*

He's confused *enough* without you *contradicting* me in *front* of him!

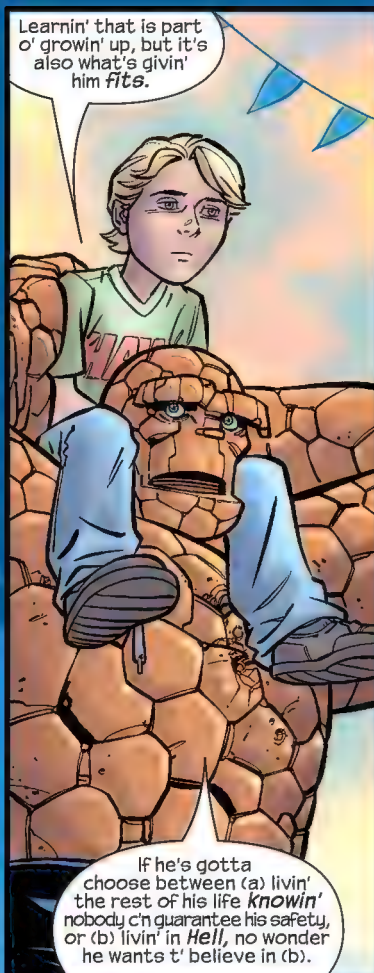
That ain't my *intent*. I 'ppreciate what ya *said* and that ya *meant* it, 'cause y'r a *great* mom.

But he didn't *believe* ya.



He's a smart kid. He knows ya can't *promise* him he'll *always* be safe no matter *what*.

I don't care if y'r fightin' a *Skrull invasion* or workin' retail at th' *mall*-- we don't live in a *safe world*.

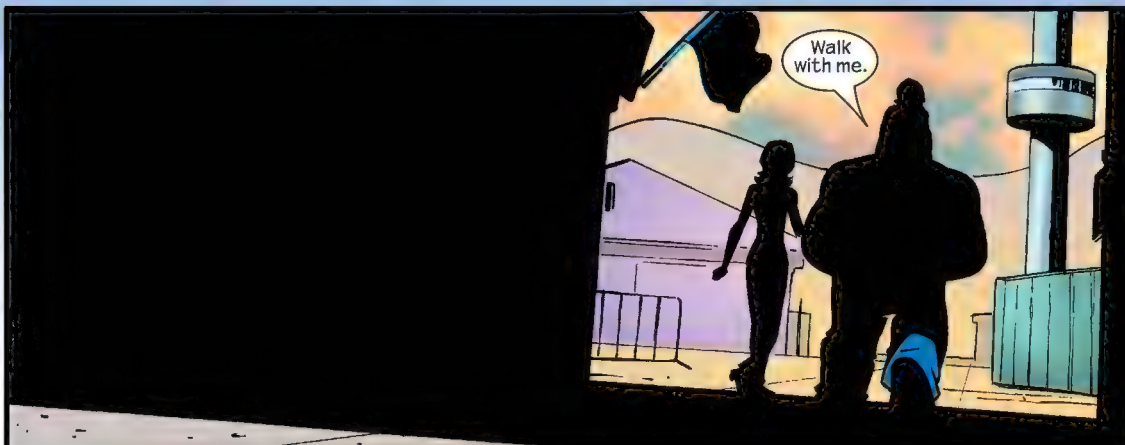


Learnin' that is part o' growin' up, but it's also what's givin' him *fits*.

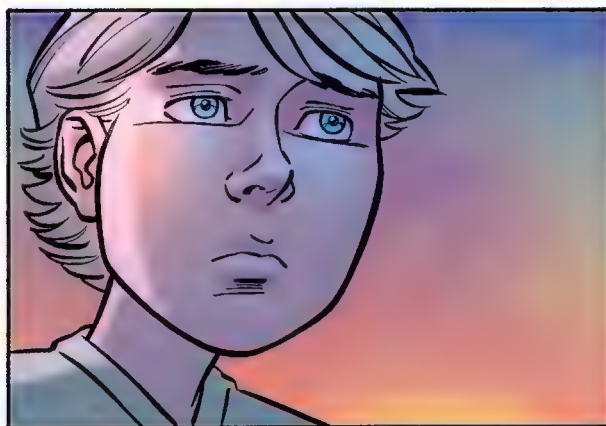
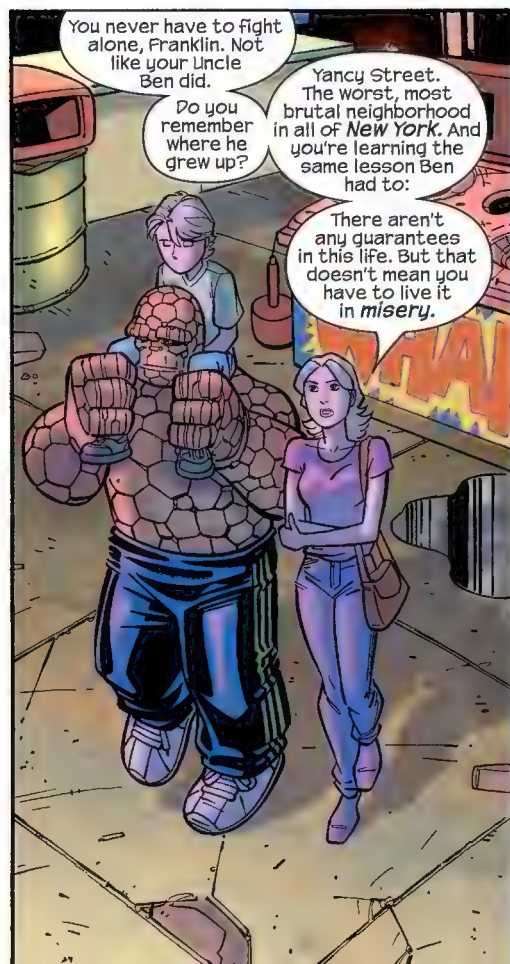
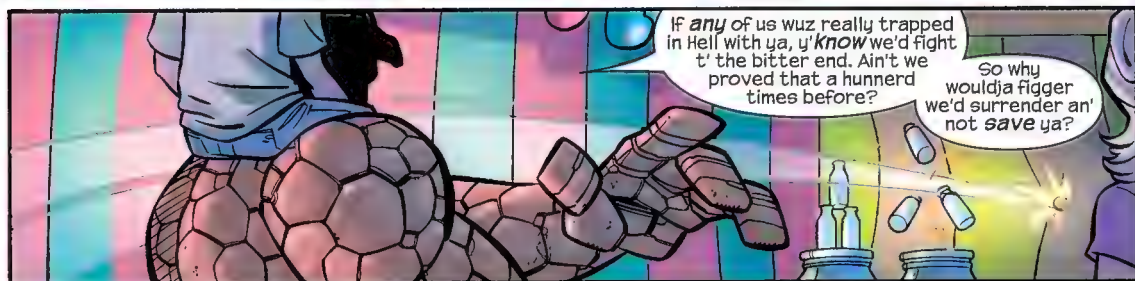
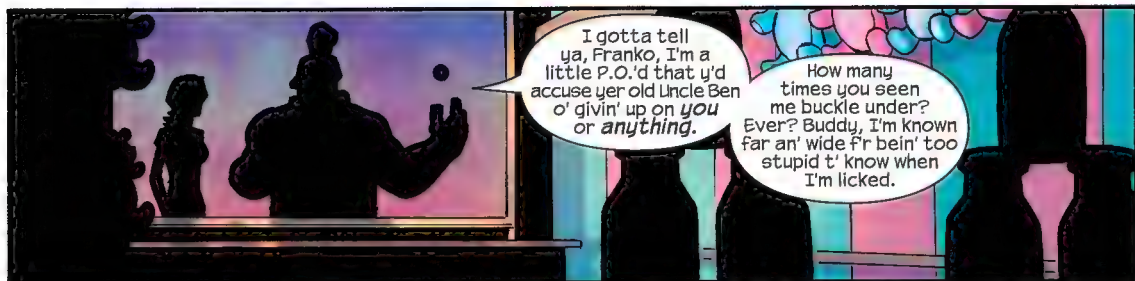
If he's gotta choose between (a) livin' the rest of his life *knowin'* nobody c'n guarantee his safety, or (b) livin' in *Hell*, no wonder he wants t' believe in (b).

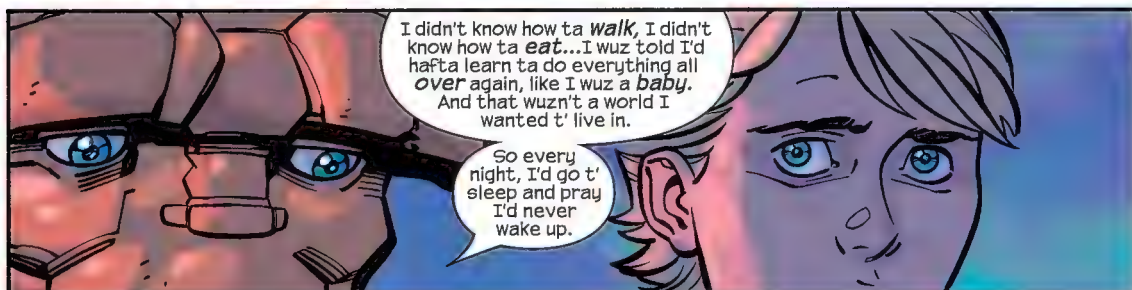
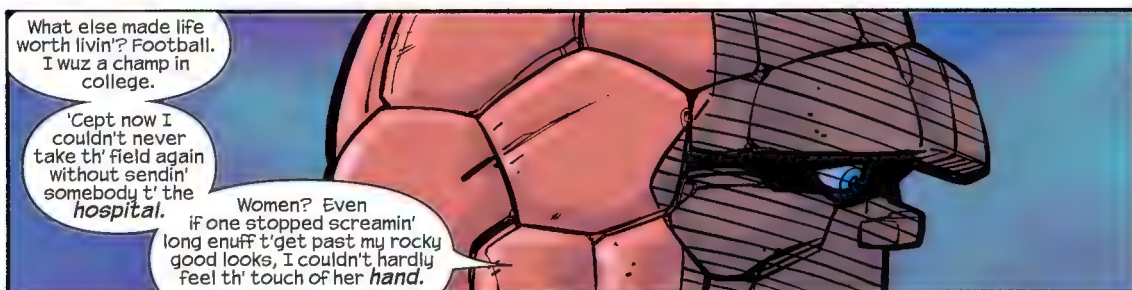
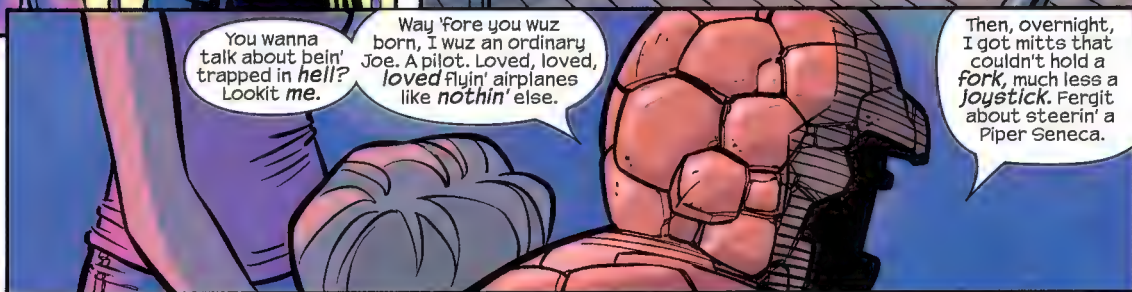
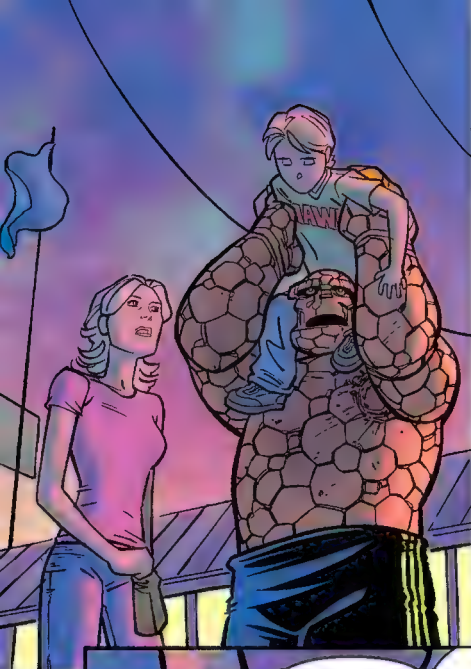


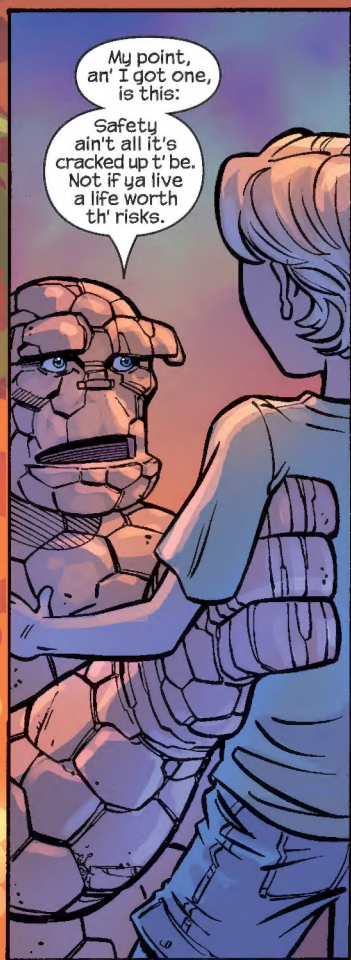
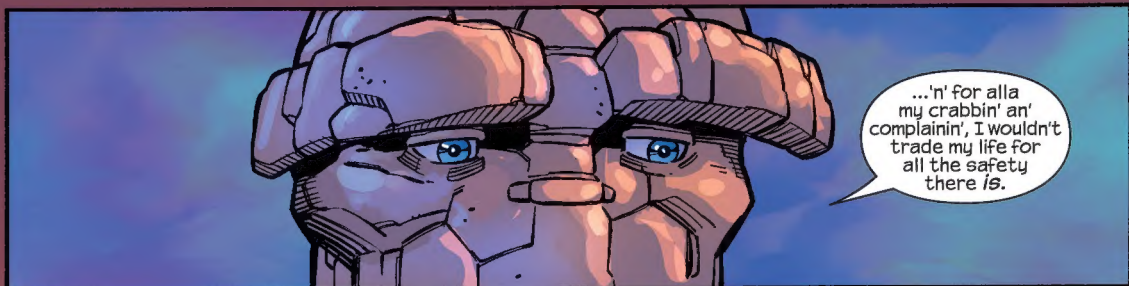
Least in *Hell*, ya got a chance of bein' *rescued*.

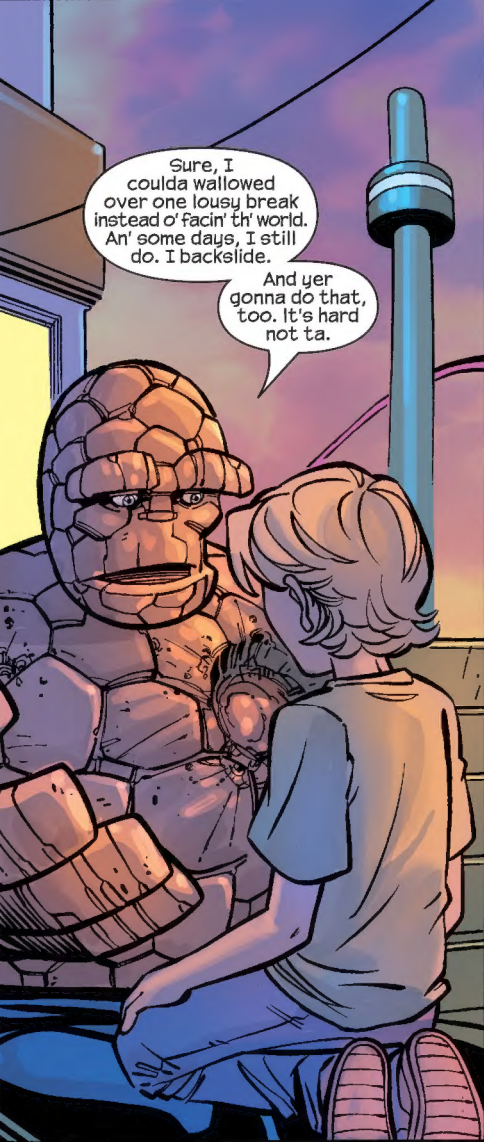


Walk with me.



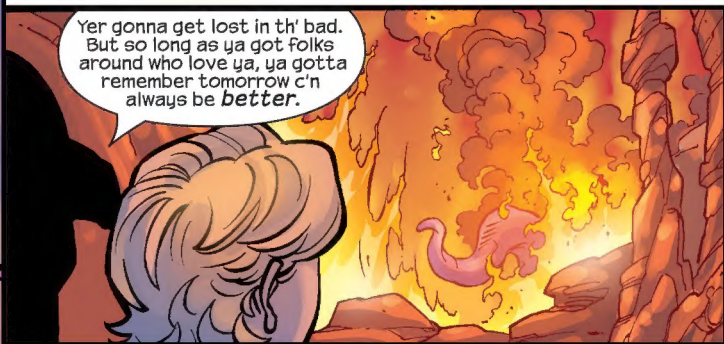




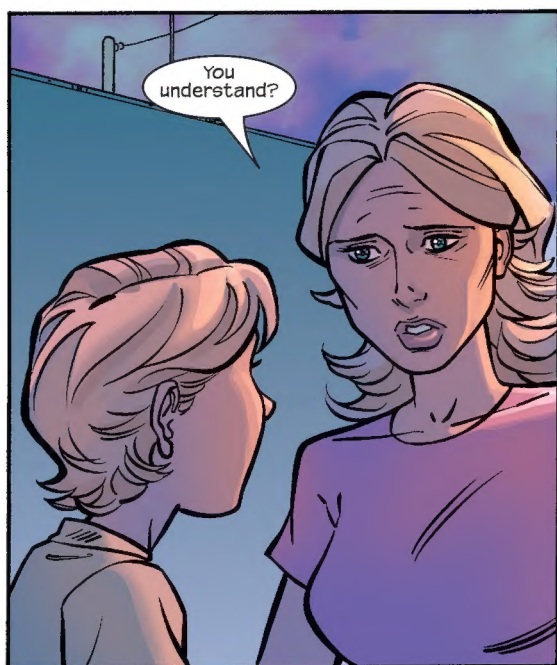


Sure, I
coulda wallowed
over one lousy break
instead o' facin' th' world.
An' some days, I still
do. I backslide.

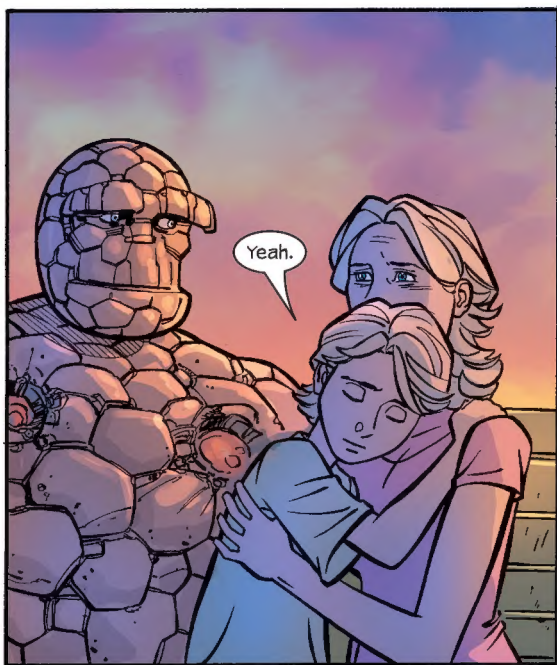
And yer
gonna do that,
too. It's hard
not ta.



Yer gonna get lost in th' bad.
But so long as ya got folks
around who love ya, ya gotta
remember tomorrow c'n
always be *better*.



You
understand?

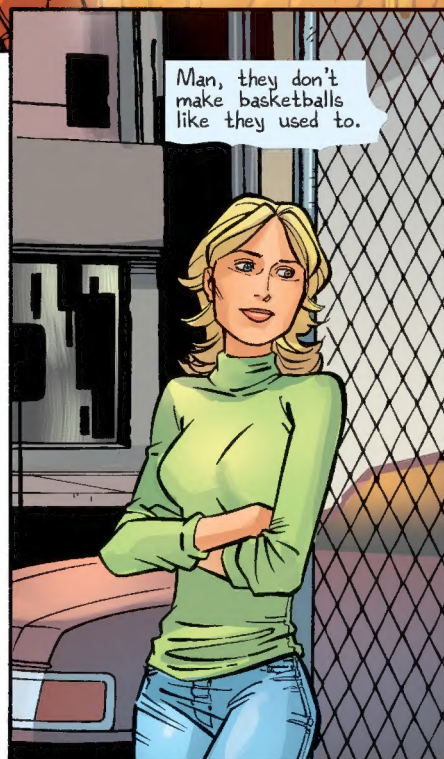
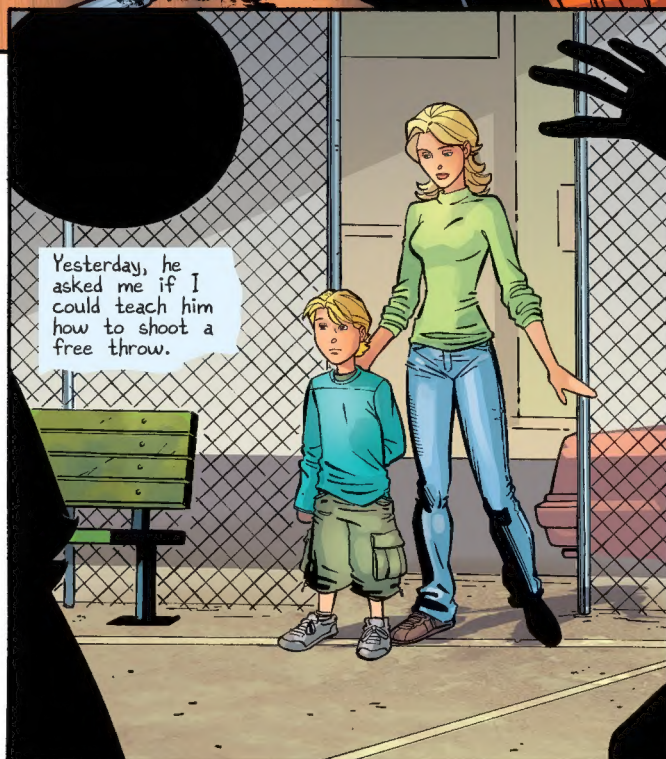


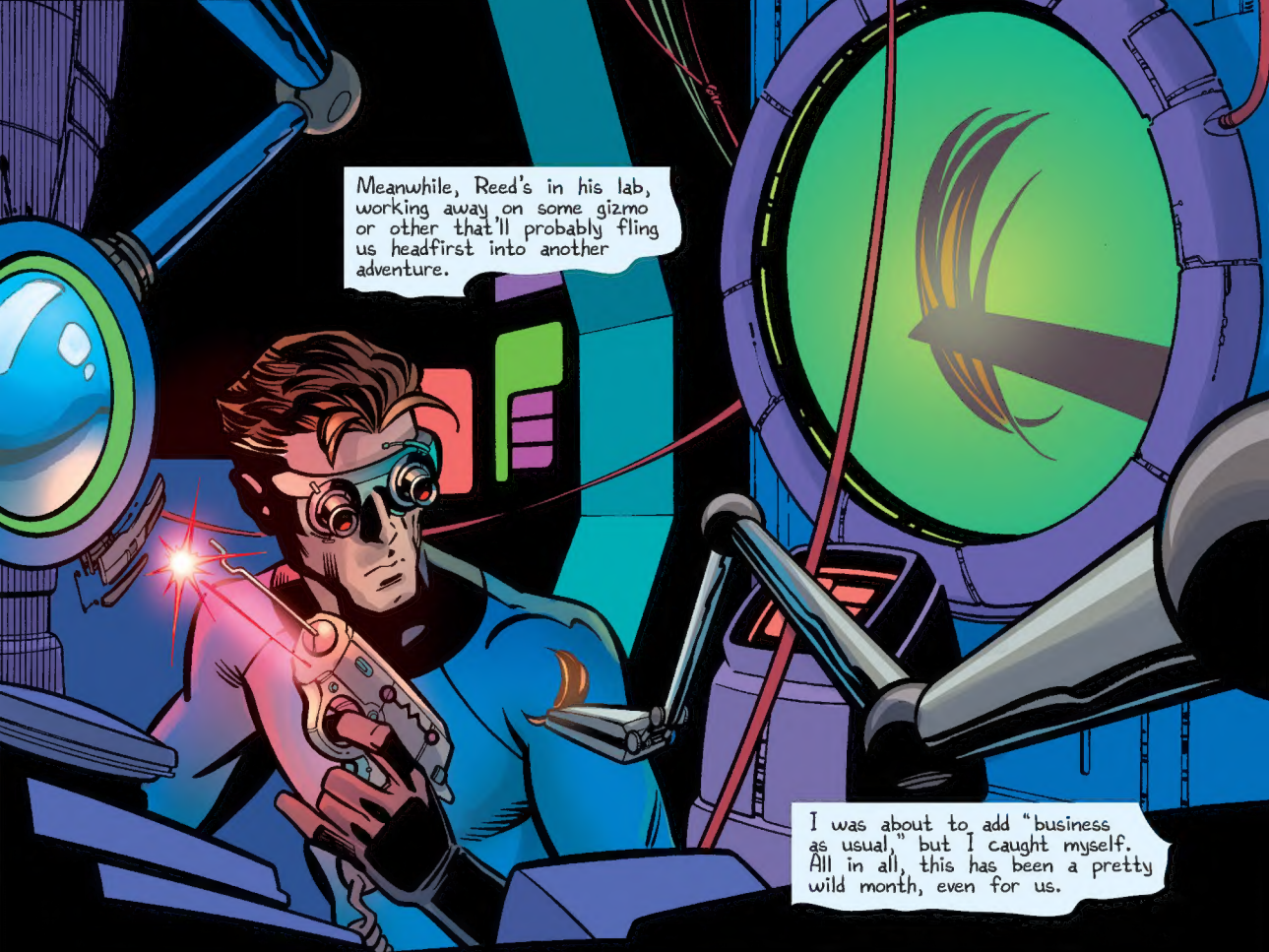
Yeah.

So there it was.
Not exactly the slobberknocker with Dragon Man
or Tomazooma I've been hankering for, and if I don't
get to turn Blastaar or somebody into a
bowling ball soon, I'm gonna bust.
- But you take your wins where you can

Franklin's improving, his doctor
says. He's started sleeping through
the night, which has Suzie looking
ten years younger...

...plus, he's traded drawing
pictures of hell for going
outdoors again. And he's
starting conversations
without being prompted.



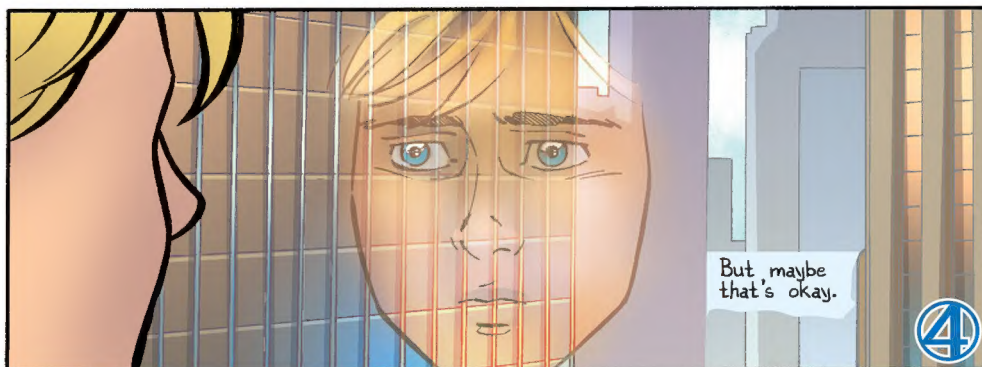


Meanwhile, Reed's in his lab, working away on some gizmo or other that'll probably fling us headfirst into another adventure.

I was about to add "business as usual," but I caught myself. All in all, this has been a pretty wild month, even for us.



I don't know that we'll ever be the same.



But, maybe that's okay.